

PONTYPRIDD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended 31st December, 1957.

A.G.M. Severn, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

and

R. T. Bevan, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

PONTYPRIDD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council

COUNCILLOR S. JONES, J.P.,

Health Committee, 1957-1958.

CHAIRMAN: COUNCILLOR A.R. WATKINS

Councillor	J. G. ANZANI
"	D. G. BALL, J.P.
"	J. R. CLAYTON
"	W. J. CHEESEMAN
"	H.G.A.DARK
"	JOHN H. DAVIES
"	J. DAVIES
"	SAM DAVIES
"	GOMER EVANS, B.A.
"	RICHARD EVANS
"	H. GARDNER
"	D.W.G. HARRY
"	A.W.B. HIGGINS
"	LLEWELLYN HOPKIN
"	C. H. JAMES
"	GIRALDUS L. JONES
"	E. W. PECK
"	NORMAN RANDALL
"	D. J. RICHARDS
"	J. STALLARD
"	W. J. THOMAS, F.A.L.P.A.
"	F. J. C. WARNER
"	J. WARREN, B.A., M.Sc (Econ)
"	MRS. G. WILLIAMS
"	J. Ll. WILLIAMS

Clerk to the Council

MR. BERNARD M. MURPHY, LL.B.

Public Health Department,
Central Clinic,
Pontypridd.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee
of the Pontypridd Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Williams and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting the annual report for 1957 on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Pontypridd Urban District. Following the retirement after a long and distinguished record of Dr. A. G. M. Severn in March, 1957, I have had the privilege to act as your Medical Officer of Health until a permanent successor to Dr. Severn was appointed. This period has afforded me the opportunity of studying some of the particular health problems of the area.

The provision of adequate housing would still appear to be the most important task ahead. Many of the houses in the Pontypridd area were built very many years ago and are of unsatisfactory design, with inadequate ventilation and poor natural lighting. Many instances were brought to my notice of overcrowding which resulted in families living in the most unsatisfactory conditions. The provision of new houses in sufficient numbers to meet the needs of the population will present difficulties due to the lack of suitable sites for development. As the years go by the problems associated with the ageing of the population will inevitably become more acute. Families are smaller than they were a generation ago and this fact, together with the tendency for young people to find employment further afield, results in many old people living on their own. These old people rightly prefer to remain in their own homes in spite of the fact that their houses are often not conveniently designed for the aged and in spite of the fact that increasing accommodation is becoming available in hostels for the aged. Old people do not always take kindly to being rehoused in small bungalows in separate sections of housing estates. Frequently they prefer to remain in streets surrounded by younger people and children.

One of the most important health functions of the Public Health Service is to ensure that the public have their food safeguarded. I am pleased to record the co-operation of shopkeepers in relation to all suggestions which are made by the Public Health Inspectors to ensure the safety of food. The shortage of staff has meant that fewer samples of food have been taken than would be desirable. The public abattoir was built many years ago and although when built was regarded as being exceedingly good, by today it compares very unfavourably with modern abattoirs. The limited space available makes adaptation somewhat difficult but when the modifications now under consideration by the Council are put into effect, the conditions of meat slaughter should be reasonable satisfactory.

Infectious diseases, apart from the influenza epidemic in the autumn, were on a low level during 1957. It is pleasing to reproduce in this report Dr. J. C. Cox's statement with regard to tuberculosis. The fight against tuberculosis is progressing very favourably, but it is essential that there should be no relaxation of effort at the present time, particularly in a mining area where, as Dr. Cox states, the dust hazard increases the risk of tubercle.

In conclusion I wish to express my sincere thanks to the many people who have made my short stay in the Health Department of the Pontypridd Urban District such a pleasant experience. I am most pleased to acknowledge the help and loyalty I have received from the staff of the Health Department, the advice and co-operation from the Chief Officers of other departments, and in particular the courtesy and understanding I have received from the Chairman and members of the Health Committee.

Yours obediently,

R. T. BEVEN,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28873130>

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health.

A.G.M. SEVERN, M.A. (Camb)., M.D., M.R.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
(Retired 31st March, 1957)

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

R.T. BEVAN, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H., (Commenced 1st July, 1957)

Senior Public Health Inspector.

a. b. H.Ll BIRKETT.

Public Health Inspectors.

a.b. W. N. DAVIES.

a.b. J. E. DAVIES (Resigned February, 1957)

Clerical Staff.

M. REES
GWYNETH C. THOMAS

CAROLE WARNER (Appointed January, 1957)
(Resigned September, 1957).

Caretaker, Public Abattoir.

R.J.STROUD.

Van Driver and Disinfector.

A. H. SEYMOUR.

- a. Certificate of Royal Society of Health and Public Health
Inspectors Examinations Joint Board.
- b. Certificate of Royal Society of Health for Inspector of
Meat and Other Foods.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (Mid-year, 1957) Estimated by Registrar	
General	37,590
Population Census 1951	38,633
Area (acres)	8,141
Number of inhabited houses, 1954	9,836
Number of Families or separate occupiers (Census, 1951)	11,022
Rateable Value (1st April, 1957).	£313,287

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1957.

Births

	Males	Females	Totals.
Legitimate	272	299	571
Illegitimate	7	7	14
Total	279	306	585

Birth Rate 15.6 (England and Wales - 16.1).

Deaths

Males 305 Females 222 Total 527.
(Death Rate 14.0 (England and Wales - 11.5)).

Infant Mortality

	Males	Females	Totals.
Legitimate	11	4	15
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Total	12	5	17

Infant Mortality Rate 29.1 (England and Wales - 23.0).
Neo-natal Death Rate 18.8 (England and Wales - 16.5).

Still Births

	Males	Females	Totals.
Legitimate	8	7	15
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Total	9	8	17

Still Birth Rate 28.2 (England and Wales - 22.4).

Maternal Mortality

1 Death.

Maternal Mortality Rate 1.7 (England and Wales - 0.4).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Pontypridd and Rhondda Joint Water Board provides an ample and constant service of pure water to all houses and premises with the exception of a few scattered cottages and farmhouses on the borders of the Urban area.

All the water is treated by modern approved methods of chlorination and filtration, and it is possible to maintain, in all parts of the district, a reasonable supply even during periods of drought.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations of the water are carried out at all stages of its collection, treatment and distribution. These examinations are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff, and they are, in the main submitted by the above-named Board. "Spot" samples are taken intermittently by the Public Health Inspectors.

The number of samples so dealt with during the year 1957 was:-

(a) Bacteriological:

Raw water	8
Treated water going into supply	12

(b) Chemical:

Raw water	3
Treated water going into supply	1

Reports on the above samples of treated water were satisfactory. The raw water was also of adequate purity.

The soft upland surface water, some 3,250,000 gallons a day, is treated at the Works with lime or chalk, raising the pH figure to 7.3, and then filtered and finally chlorinated and there is no action on lead. The Analyst states that this process "indicates satisfactory treatment". Additional supplies are obtained from Taf Fechan Water Board.

The number of houses supplied direct from the mains in Pontypridd is 10,062.

There are no stand-pipes in use within the Pontypridd area.

Miscellaneous samples were taken from mountain springs and streams; some were reported to be unsatisfactory in varying degree and appropriate action was taken.

The following statistics of the local rainfall for the year 1957 have been kindly provided by the Joint Water Board:-

Rainfall registered at Lanwood Reservoir, Pontypridd:

<u>Month.</u>	<u>Inches.</u>
January	9.68
February	7.83
March	8.78
April	0.32
May	2.59
June	1.55
July	5.50
August	5.54
September	8.62
October	8.10
November	3.01
December	4.58
Total ..	66.10

The average rainfall recorded at the above station for the past 41 years is 60.96 inches.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A complete water-carriage system of sewerage, seventeen miles in length, controlled by the Pontypridd and Rhondda Joint Sewerage Board, extends from the Rhondda area to the sea. All authorised inhabited houses in the Pontypridd urban locality are connected with this main sewer, with the exception of approximately 100 dwellings which lie outside the statutory distance.

In addition to the above, a small number of temporary dwellings in the area are of necessity employing the conservancy system of sewage disposal.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

There are approximately 80 houses in the district without separate closet accommodation, one water closet serving the needs of two houses. This figure is gradually decreasing as sanitary improvements are carried out.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Summary of inspection and revisits in the course of routine work and "on complaint" during the year ended 31st December, 1957:

Public Health Acts:

House Inspection - First Visits.	..	..	..	..	720
Revisits.	..	..	..	..	870
Infectious Diseases..	..	..	..	..	68
Disinfestation ..	..	..	..	..	12
Public Abattoir..	..	..	..	..	780
Markets and Shops	..	..	..	..	517
Bakehouses ..	..	..	..	..	9
Marine Stores ..	..	..	..	..	5
Factories ..	..	..	..	..	12
Canteens ..	..	..	..	..	8
Licensed Premises ..	..	..	..	..	3
Common Lodging Houses	..	..	..	..	1
Ice Cream Premises ..	..	..	..	..	1
Fried Fish Shops ..	..	..	..	..	14
Cinemas and Theatres	..	..	..	..	12
Dairies..	..	..	..	..	5
Smoke Nuisance ..	..	..	..	..	3
Refuse Dumping ..	..	..	..	..	2
Cafes ..	..	..	..	..	12
Miscellaneous(Including Interviews).	..	..	..	..	553
Moveable Dwellings ..	..	..	..	..	24
Slum Clearance Survey ..	..	..	..	..	150
Shops Act, 1950..	..	..	..	..	1
Certificate of Disrepair.	..	..	..	..	62
Schools ..	..	..	..	..	6
					<u>3850</u>

Food Samples:

Milk..	..	..	..	..	91
Food and Drugs	..	..	..	..	47
Ice-Cream.	..	..	..	..	13
Water.	..	..	..	..	4
Table Wines	..	..	..	..	2
Baths Water	..	..	..	..	10

Notices Served:

Informal..	..	..	..	..	96
Formal ..	..	..	..	..	32
Letters sent re Notices.	..	..	..	..	48

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

In the course of the year ended 31st December, 1957, 7 prosecutions were instituted by the Public Health Inspectors, as a result of non-compliance with the requirements of statutory notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936.

In all cases the work had been completed at the date of the hearings, and the cases were withdrawn.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The Public Health Inspectors paid 12 visits to factories during the year and, in one case a notice was served to abate a nuisance, This was subsequently remedied.

Generally, all the factories were found to be in a satisfactory condition, and in no instance was it necessary to take legal action for the contravention of any of the provisions of the above Act.

CREMATORIUM

The following particulars have kindly been supplied by the Clerk of the Board:

Cremations for the year ended
31st December, 1956 2051

Cremations for year ended
31st December, 1957 1627

The cremations in 1957 show a decrease of 424 compared with 1956.

It is interesting to note that by the end of 1957, cremations carried out in Pontypridd totalled 23,879.

The Decrease in the number of Cremations for the year 1957 was occasioned by the Swansea Crematorium being brought into service, where I understand some 1,000 cremations were carried out during, 1957.

During the year new Gardens of Rest were constructed, and were opened for public use following a Service of Blessing, in July. In these Gardens cremated remains are deposited beneath the soil or buried in small family plots.

CAMPING SITES

No licences have been issued in respect of camping sites by the Local Authority; nor are there any sites within the area which are approved for this purpose

UNAUTHORISED CAMPING

Section 56 of the Glamorgan County Council Act permits a local Authority to make a complaint to a court of summary jurisdiction where it appears to the Authority that amenities are affected or residents in the districts are annoyed by the conduct of the occupiers of moveable dwellings, but during 1957 the Council did not need to use this provision.

The original byelaw which is now, in effect, absorbed in the present Act, has undoubtedly eased the local problem, but the difficulties facing the itinerants appear to grow proportionately.

SCAVENGING

The Collection of refuse and waste material for 1957 amounted to approximately 14,000 tons an average of $45\frac{1}{2}$ tons per working day. Since the beginning of the year disposal of the refuse is effected by controlled tipping on a site at Llandraw. The Council has bought an angle-dozer to spread and cover down the refuse.

RODENT CONTROL

One man is engaged full time to deal with day-to-day complaints and routine duties of rodent infestation.

The following tables give a summary of action during 1957.

Number of Premises Treated.

<u>Rats.</u>	<u>Mice.</u>
25 Business Premises	20
<u>363</u> Others.	<u>224</u>
<u>388</u> Total infestations.	<u>244</u>

The sewers in the area were treated in March/April and October/November, 1957. In the March treatment, sausage rusk and zinc phosphide were the bait and poison and in October, bread mash and arsenious oxide were used.

This work was successful and is considered to have reduced the surface infestation to a fair degree.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

The methods employed in this locality for dealing with verminous premises have been outlined in previous reports. The number of premises dealt with during the year under review was as follows:-

(1)	Council Houses	..	..	14
(11)	Other dwelling houses			17
(111)	Other premises	..	..	8
				<u>39</u>

This form of nuisance was not pronounced or troublesome in 1957.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

The following offensive trades are established in the District:

Rag storage and sorting	..	..	..	..	..	3
Fellmonger	..	..	..	..	..	1

The above premises and trades are conducted satisfactorily so as to lead to the minimum of nuisance.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is only one common lodging house in the Pontypridd area. The premises are revisited periodically by the sanitary staff and are maintained in a satisfactory manner.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

Pontypridd possesses a municipal open-air swimming bath and a paddling pool situated in the Ynysangharad Park. The adult bath holds 460,000 gallons and the juvenile pool 180,000 gallons.

A large capacity filtration and purification plant treats the water of both baths by chemical precipitation, filtration, aeration and finally chlornnation.

28 samples of bath water were taken on 7 occasions for bacteriological and chemical examination and with the exception of a sample from the adult bath on 28th June, all were reported satisfactory.

The standard of water purity to be aimed at in a swimming bath is equivalent to that for drinking water. It will be appreciated that such a standard is a very high one particularly during periods when large numbers of people make use of baths. Viewed as a whole one can be well satisfied with the results obtained from tests of the Pontypridd baths. However overcrowding must be avoided and there must be supervision in particular of the very young toddlers using the paddling pool.

HOUSING

In the post war period, 889 new houses have been completed and occupied. During 1957, 66 traditional type houses have been erected and occupied, a further 18 traditional type houses are nearing completion, and 100 Cornish Unit New Traditional Type Houses are under construction on the Glyncoch Site.

In addition, private enterprise accounted for the following new dwelling houses:-

Number of houses completed	..	..	..	..	10
Number of houses commenced	..	..	..	..	14

COUNCIL HOUSES

Particulars of the dwelling houses owned by the Pontypridd Urban District Council at the end of 1957 are set out as follows:-

Consolidated housing Scheme	....	1495
Ynys Terrace	....	28
Gwernygerwn	....	17
Duffryn House and Danygraig House..		3
Taken over by the Council:		
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899-1923 and Housing Acts 1923-1925		29
19, 20 and 22 Stow Hill		3
16 Broadway.		1
		<u>1576</u>

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

To give effect to the requirements of Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, the Public Health Department made a survey of properties in the town and from the resulting report of the Medical Officer of Health the Council selected 58 properties in 7 Clearance Areas as the first portion of its 5 year scheme.

Of these seven Orders, the Minister confirmed the following:-

Area No. 1 - Nos.1,2 & 12-20 Ashgrove, Treforest.
Nos. 1-9 Baileys Court and Ivy Cottage,
Baileys Court, Glyntaff.
Nos.33,34,35 Bryn-Ilan.
Nos. 1,2, and 3 Graig-yr-Helfa.

Area No. 3- Nos.10-15 Mount Pleasant,Ynysangharad Road.
Area No. 4- Nos. 15a and 16 a Bassett Street, Coedpenmaen.
Area No. 6- Nos.2,3,4,5,6, & 7 Canal Place, Coedpenmaen.
Area No. 7- Nos.2-9 Castle Court, and 9 and 10 Castle Street.

These 51 properties, together with 14 existing Demolition, and Clearance properties, were grouped by the Council to form the first period of the re-housing programme.

Towards the end of the year, the Medical Officer of Health submitted recommendations for the second period of the programme and these are to be considered during 1958.

RENT ACT, 1957

During 1957, 84 applications were made for Certificates of Disrepair.

These were subjected to the procedure laid down in Part II of the First Schedule of the Act.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations
1949

The following registrations/licences were issued by the Pontypridd Urban District Council under the above regulations during the year 1957.

Distributors	Dairies (Other than Farms)	Dealers.		
		T.T.	Pasteurised	Sterilised
19	13	15	16	13

Pasteurising Plant	Supplementary Dealers.		
	T.T.	Pasteurised	Sterilised
1	5	5	5

MILK(SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (SPECIFIED AREAS) ORDER, 1954.

Under the above Order, Pontypridd is included in a Specified Area, wherein it is illegal to sell by retail for human consumption any milk other than specially designated milk.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

The following is a summary of examinations carried out during the past year; all samples being submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

<u>Graded Milk.</u>	<u>No.of Samples.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Pasteurised T.T.	3	3	-
Pasteurised	35	34	1

ICE CREAM PREMISES

At 31st December, 1957, there were 160 registered ice-cream retailers in this town. Of these, probably only two manufacture their own ice-cream, the majority preferring to purchase the ice-cream ready-made, in hygienic containers, and maintaining it at the required temperature in refrigerators provided by the wholesaler.

These premises are regularly inspected by the Food Inspectors.

FOOD PREMISES

The following statement sets out the totals of the various types of food premises within the Pontypridd Urban District:

Butchers	39
Grocers	59
General	135
Confectioner	19
Fruiterers & Greengrocers	31
Chemist	14
Cafes and Restaurants	25
Fish Friers	19
Wet Fish Shops	6
Bakeries	6

PUBLIC ABATTOIR

With the scheme for major improvements still held in abeyance pending legislation consequent upon the findings of the Inter-departmental Committee, the Council continued its policy of a degree of renewal and improvement each year.

During 1957, overhead carrying rails were installed in the piggery. These rails facilitate the movement of carcasses from the scalding pans to the lift, and in addition, provide dressings rails over the pans.

At the close of the year, arrangements had been completed for the visit to the Abattoir of the Ministry's Area Technical Adviser on Meat Inspection to advise on the adaptation of the Abattoir to comply with the provisions of the Recommended Minimum Standards of Construction Layout and Equipment of Slaughterhouses in England and Wales (Commd. 243).

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

All the Council's Public Health Inspectors possess the additional qualification for the examination of meat and other foods and this work is regarded as an important part of their duties.

The following are particulars for 1957 of the number of animals slaughtered and examined at the Abattoir:-

<u>Bulls</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Heifers and Steers</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total.</u>
-	323	2,609	739	19,112	6,546	29,329

The total number of visits paid to the Abattoir and markets and shops by the Public Health Inspectors for the purposes of inspection of meat and other foods was as follows:-

Visits and revisits made to the Public
Abattoir by Meat Inspectors 780

Visits made to other premises under
Public Health (Meat Regulations),
1924 and Food & Drugs Act, 1938 517
1,297

Summary of unsound meat and other foods surrendered and destroyed during the year ended 31st December, 1957:-

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts</u>	<u>Qrs</u>	<u>lbs</u>
Public Abattoir (Meat-Tuberculosis)	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23</u>
Public Abattoir (Meat-Other Diseases)	9	19	2	6
Public Markets and Shops (Other Foods)	<u>2</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2$\frac{3}{4}$</u>
	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3$\frac{3}{4}$</u>

CONDEMNED MEAT AND OFFAL

In accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Food to the effect that local authorities should control the disposal of condemned meat and offal from their Abattoirs, the Council has assumed this responsibility. Periodically, approved contractors are invited to quote for the purchase of these materials and the Council accepts the most favourable offer, consistent with facilities to collect on agreed days. All proceeds are refunded to the owners of the animals concerned.

The following table shows the percentage figures for the year ended 31st December, 1957 of those carcasses affected with:

- (1) Tuberculosis
- (2) Diseases other than Tuberculosis
- (3) Cysticercus Bovis

Number inspected:

<u>Bulls</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Heifers and Steers</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
-	323	2609	739	19,112	6,546

(1) Tuberculosis only:

	<u>Bulls</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Heifers and Steers</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Carcases	-	-	1	-	-	3
Part	-	100	83	-	-	57
Percentage	-	30.9%	3.2%	-	-	0.9%

(2) All diseases other than Tuberculosis:

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Whole Carcasses condemned	-	-	5	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,012	2	182	47
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	34.6%	0.3%	0.9%	0.7%

(3) Cysticercus Bovis:

The carcasses of 5 cattle and 2 cows were submitted to treatment by refrigeration, giving percentage of 0.2%

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1954

Section 1 of the Act is applicable within the area to sheep ewes, wethers, rams and lambs, and with the exception of Kosher meat, all cattle are humanely killed by the captive bolt pistol and the smaller animals are electrically stunned before slaughter.

26 licences under Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954 were granted by the Council to operate for the year 1957.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The Pontypridd Council administers the above Act in this area and the Authority's Public Health Inspectors are appointed Sampling Officers. Mr. D. Evans Jones, M. Sc., F.R.I.C. of the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff, is the Public Analyst appointed to act for this district.

In the course of the past year, the following wide range of samples (formal and informal) were submitted to, and reported upon, by the Analyst:

	Genuine	Non-Genuine
Milk	57	1
Margarine	2	
Cornflour	2	
Self Raising Flour	3	
Malt Vinegar	6	
Tomato Piquant	1	
Salad Cream	4	
Canned Creamed Rice	1	
Sausages and Sausage Meat	4	1
Soft Drink	4	
British Wines	2	
Tea	2	
Lemon Curd	1	
Table Jelly	5	
Glaze Cherries	1	
Bi-carbonate of Soda	1	
Ice-cream	1	
Bread and Butter	1	
Canned Rice Pudding	1	
Canned Dressed Crab	1	
Lemon Juice	1	
Jam	1	
Cake Mix	-	1
Sponge Mix	-	1
Orange Squash	2	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	104	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Of the formal and informal milk samples only one was reported to be unsatisfactory. The percentage of unsound samples was therefore 1.7.

The average composition of genuine milk samples for 1957 was 3.52 milk fat and 8.69 solids-not-fat, compared with the standard laid down in the milk regulations of 3% milk fat and 8.5% solids-not fat.

Following are details of the substandard foods:-

Milk	51 P	Informal	Deficient in fat to the extent of not less than 2%
Sausage	27 P	Informal	Meat content Low - 40%
Sponge Mix	103 P	Informal	Fat rancid
Cake mix	104 P	Informal	Fat rancid

In respect of the above deficiencies, the following action was taken:-

- 51 P - Follow-up formal sample satisfactory.
- 27 P - Follow-up formal sample satisfactory.
- 103 P - Consignment surrendered and destroyed.
- 104 P - Consignment surrendered and destroyed.

In December, the department became aware of a large consignment of frozen egg intended for the manufacture of flour confectionery, but which was thought to be of doubtful quality. The consignment was examined and a large percentage found to be unfit.

A large quantity, valued at about £250, was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

Consignments of food which have been condemned by Public Health Inspectors as being unfit for human consumption are surrendered, stained and despatched to the Council's controlled tip. The Authority is fortunate in having available a plentiful and regular supply of flue dust, and the food, with all other refuse is more than adequately covered. The tip is regularly inspected.

PONTYPRIDD CLEAN FOOD ASSOCIATION

The Association continued its activities during the past 12 months and endeavoured in various ways to bring the importance of Hygienic Food Handling to the notice of the general public.

At the South Wales Dairy Festival held for the first time at the Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd and attended by over 70,000 people, the Association was invited to accept one of the stands at

An emergency Hospital Ward was portrayed, equipped with 2 beds containing models of two young children with a doctor and nurse in attendance, and captions placed in prominent positions with the words "FOOD POISONING CASES" - "CAUSE ? - DIRTY FOOD HANDLING IN HOMES AND FOOD PREMISES!"

At this time out-breaks of poliomyelitis had occurred in some of the neighbouring districts and the opportunity was taken to distribute Health Education leaflets on clean food handling, etc., to approximately 5,000 adults visiting the stand.

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 lay down requirements in respect of cleanliness of Food premises, and persons engaged in the handling of food and their clothing, etc. The members of the Association had, prior to the regulations coming into operation, complied with these as a condition of their membership, but now, however, they are enforceable by this recent legislation in all food premises and upon all food handlers.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1956-57 - FOOD BYE-LAWS

No Police Court action was taken under these bye-laws during 1957 but compliance with the various provisions is a constant concern of the Food Inspectors.

The comprehensive Codes of Practice drawn up by the Clean Food Association, and which form the basis of membership of the Association embody the spirit of the bye-laws and they are proving of benefit in this connection.

SHOPS ACT 1950

The Council's Public Health Inspectors are also appointed Shops Inspectors under the above Act.

During the course of their duties the Inspectors found that in many cases, particularly among the smaller shopkeepers, there was but little knowledge of the detailed provisions of the Act, and much has been done to draw their attention to the most important facts and requirements.

There were no prosecutions during 1957.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

This act is designed to ensure the humane care of pet animals and it prohibits the sale of such animals except from premises which have been licensed by a local authority. The Act does not affect the sale of pedigree animals or birds. The Council's Public Health Inspectors are authorised to inspect premises for this purpose.

Four licences were issued in 1957.

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS AND LOCAL REGULATIONS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT

A complete list of the above was set out in my Annual Report for 1954.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES INFLUENZA

In September, the area was affected by the wave of influenza which caused particular concern because of its extent and that it had shown itself during a period of the year when one does not expect normally to experience such an epidemic. It was proved to be of the "Asian Type" which had spread from the East, across Europe and into the British Isles.

In the Pontypridd area the epidemic seems to have struck in the first instance, the pupils in the Grammar and Secondary Schools. Abnormal absentee rates were soon reported in the factories and it was noticeable that young adults seemed to be particularly susceptible to the infection.

The following table giving the absentee rates in the schools gives an indication of the severity of the epidemic:-

Type of School.	26.9.57	4.10.57	11.10.57	21.10.57
Infants	29%	34%	24%	8%
Primary/Junior	31%	30%	12%	4%
Secondary	51%	21%	15%	6%
Grammar	39%	39%	5%	4%
Totals:	36%	28%	13%	5%

It was fortunate that the disease usually took a short and sharp course and did not involve prolonged absenteeism from school or work.

Six deaths were reported during the months of September and October of people suffering from influenza, but they were in people who were previously not in good health because of age or other medical conditions.

There was always the possibility that another wave of the epidemic would appear late in the winter with more fatal results, but fortunately this did not take place.

CANCER

Deaths from Cancer (all forms) in Pontypridd recorded during 1957 were as follows:

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
44	33	77

The above figures, constituting a death rate of 2.0 per 1,000 population show a slight increase on those of last year, when the total reached 66 with a death rate of 1.8. The number of deaths from lung cancer in 1957 was 13 including three women, giving an increase of 4 over 1956.

It is noteworthy that lung cancer now kills more persons than tuberculosis.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1957

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases</u> <u>Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted</u> <u>to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	53	26	-
Pneumonia	10	1	16
Puerperal Pyrexia	9	9	-
Measles	66	-	-
Whooping Cough	19	-	-
OP. Neonatorum	3	3	-
Paratyphoid	2	2	-
Anthrax	1	1	-
Poliomyelitis:-			
Paralytic	5	5	-
Non-Paralytic	2	2	-

PUERPERAL PYREXIA REGULATION 1939

Nine cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were reported during the year: all from hospitals. These responded to treatment and no deaths resulted.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

One maternal death was reported in 1957.

This shows no increase over 1956; one feels that we are now seeing the justification of the aim of the health service towards safe child-birth.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified during 1957.

Both in number and severity, this disease has almost disappeared, as compared with two or three decades ago. Modern treatment of mother and infant has led to this gratifying result.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The ambulance service is the responsibility of the Glamorgan County Council, and the depot serving the Pontypridd area is situated at Hawthorn, Nr. Pontypridd. The telephone number is Pontypridd 2522. Ambulance and cars for all types of cases are maintained at this depot.

REPLACEMENT OF DESTROYED BEDDING

Authority, is given to the Local Authority, by Section 167, ss. 4, of the Public Health Act, 1936 to replace bedding soiled and suspected of containing infection after infectious diseases.

No such replacement was made in 1957.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD DURING THE YEAR 1957

Disease	Graig	Rhon-dda	Town	Cilfy-nydd	Tra-llwn	Tref-orest	Rhydy-felin	Total
Scarlet Fever	5	5	5	11	21	3	3	53
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	1	3	3	1	9
Pneumonia	3	3	1	-	-	2	1	10
Whooping Cough	1	4	1	1	8	3	1	19
Measles	29	5	15	-	8	5	4	66
Poliomyelitis:								
Paralytic	1	-	-	-	3	-	1	5
Non-paralytic	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
Paratyphoid	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Ophthalmia								
Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Anthrax	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Tuberculosis:								
Respiratory	2	4	5	2	5	6	3	27
Non-Respiratory	-	1	1	1	-	2	-	5
Totals	43	23	29	16	48	24	18	202

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS NOTIFIED DURING 1957

Disease	Under 1 Year	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs	5-10 yrs	10-15 yrs	15-20 yrs	20-35 yrs	35-45 yrs	45-65 yrs	65 & Over	Totals
Scarlet Fever	-	3	4	2	7	32	4	1	-	-	-	-	53
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	5	1	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	9
Tuberculosis: Respiratory.	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	3	7	4	8	1	27
Non-Respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	5
Measles	2	9	10	10	11	23	-	-	-	1	-	-	66
Whooping Cough	-	2	4	2	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
OP.Neonatorum	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Anthrax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis Paralytic	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Totals:	5	15	19	17	24	66	5	5	5	22	8	2	202

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The prime concern of the public health services when they were introduced more than a century ago was the fight against infectious disease. At that time, environmental conditions were favourable for the spread of disease. Very much has been done to safeguard the health of the public, not only by an improvement in living and working conditions, but also by specific measures against certain infectious diseases. Some diseases which were very prevalent in the last century have by now become medical rarities. Immunisation programmes have played a most important part. It is doubtful whether, before the last war, anyone would have believed that in 1957 there would not have been a single case due to Diphtheria in Pontypridd.

The following table gives an indication of the reduction in infectious diseases in Pontypridd.

Population	1920	1957
	47,390	37,590
Scarlet Fever	150	53
Diphtheria	59	0
Enteric Fever	30	2
Tuberculosis	64	32

Recently immunisation against Poliomyelitis has been introduced and it is hoped that in the future this disease will become a rarity and thus preventing the sometimes serious residual paralyses.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

The national scheme for the vaccination of children against Poliomyelitis commenced in 1956 under the control of the respective County Medical Officers.

The Divisional Medical Officer has kindly given the following figures showing the progress in the Pontypridd area during the year: 1957

No. of children who completed treatment	..	2,330
No. of children who were partly treated at the end of the year	.. ..	468

LABORATORY WORK AND FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff, examines and reports upon all pathological specimens submitted from the Pontypridd area. The number of suspected and routine specimens sent by the Health Department and by local doctors during the past year was 14. These included throat and nose swabs sputa, blood, pus, faeces, cerebro-spinal fluid, etc.

Outfits for the collection of specimens for transmission through the post are kept at the office of the Public Health Department for the use of medical practitioners of the town.

HOSPITAL PROVISION FOR CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Where hospital admission is deemed desirable, cases of infectious disease are accepted at the Cardiff Isolation Hospital at Canton, Cardiff, and at the Tyntyla Isolation Hospital, Pentre, Rhondda. In practice, the more serious types of infectious diseases, such as poliomyelitis and cerebro-spinal meningitis are usually treated at Cardiff. Special facilities also exist at the hospital at Canton for the treatment of tubercular meningitis and miliary tuberculosis, both of which require skilled and prolonged nursing care and attention.

The Isolation Hospital at Tonteg, formerly administered by the Pontypridd Council now functions as a Tuberculosis Sanatorium under the control of the Welsh Regional Hospital Board. This hospital has a capacity of fifty-six beds and both male and female cases are admitted for treatment. Ten of the beds are provided for children.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925 - SECTION 62 and PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 SECTION 172

The Local Authority took no action under these sections during 1957.

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY
DURING 1957

	<u>New Cases.</u>			<u>Deaths</u>		
	<u>Respir</u>	<u>Non-</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Respir</u>	<u>Non-</u>	<u>Totals</u>
	<u>-atory</u>	<u>Respir</u>		<u>-atory</u>	<u>Respir</u>	
	M. F.	M. F.		M. F.	M. F.	
Under 1 Year	- -	- -	-	- -	- -	-
1 - 5 years	- 1	- -	1	- -	- -	-
5 -15 years	- 3	- -	3	- -	- -	-
15-25 years	1 3	2 -	6	- -	- -	-
25-35 years	4 2	- 1	7	- 1	- -	1
35-45 years	2 2	1 -	5	2 -	- -	2
45-65 years	7 1	1 -	9	2 -	- -	2
65 and over	- 1	- -	1	- -	- -	-
	14 13	4 1	32	4 1	- -	5

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE

The local death rate from Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population for 1957 and the previous five years was as follows:

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>
Respiratory	0.13	0.16	0.16	0.13	0.27	0.39
Non-respiratory	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	0.05
All forms of Tuberculosis.	0.13	0.16	0.16	0.13	0.27	0.44

TUBERCULOSIS

The following information has been kindly supplied by Dr. J. G. Cox, in respect of Pontypridd and Rhondda areas which form the district under his control:-

The decline in the number of new cases of Tubercle continued during 1957 when 127 cases were diagnosed as compared with 171 in 1956. The chief reduction was amongst females from 81 to 46. The comparatively high male rate is due to the main occupation of men in this area, the dust hazard increasing the risk of Tubercle, and this is confirmed by an examination of the affected age groups.

The number of primary Tuberculous infections remain about the same as for 1956. The number of cases on the Clinic Tuberculosis Register continues to fall each year and this fall is likely to be accelerated during the coming years as greater numbers of cases will be considered to have become "cured" as a result of modern treatment.

In spite of the foregoing, the work of the Chest Clinic shows an increase and the number of new cases seen from the whole Area - 4640 - is an all time record and 505 more than in 1956.

The high incidence of Pneumoconiosis and Chronic Bronchitis in these Valleys will result in high attendance figures at the Clinic for years to come.

A further increase in the number of Bronchial Carcinoma figures was recorded in 1957, and here again as in Tubercle and Chronic Bronchitis the incidence is much higher in males than in females.

Increased prevention work with more Contact investigations and B. C. G. vaccinations was carried out in 1957. During the year, as a result of the finding of cases of Tubercle in School Children or Staffs, the Mass Radiography Unit surveyed the following Schools in the Pontypridd Area:-

1. St. Michael's, Treforest.
2. Wood Road Infants', Treforest.
3. Wood Road Seniors, Treforest.
4. Wood Road Secondary Modern, Treforest.

The Clinic Staff, with the assistance of the Local Authority Health Visitors, conducted a Mantoux survey and the negative reactions were vaccinated with B.C.G. The incidence of positive reactions did not show a significantly high rate in any of these Schools and the X-ray findings showed nothing of significance.

The demand for Hospital beds for Tuberculosis is still declining and beds are immediately available for any new cases of Tubercle. It is hoped to undertake even further Contact work in the future and the help of all interested in Health Matters is earnestly solicited. It is hoped that more and more men, women and children with a history of Tubercle in the family will be referred for Clinic investigation.

VACCINATION WITH B.C.G.

The vaccination of Contacts of Tuberculosis is the responsibility of the Chest Service, and the vaccination of school leavers is carried out by the School Medical Service.

	<u>School Medical Service</u>	<u>Chest Clinic.</u>
B.C. G. Vaccination	248	1986
Mantoux Tests	351	2925

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1957

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week		1 - 2 weeks		2 - 3 weeks		3 - 4 weeks		Total under 4 weeks		Over 4 weeks & under 3 months		3 - 6 months		6 - 9 months		9 - 12 months		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Cong. Malformations Prematurity Cong. Heart Disease Atelectasis Acute Cardiac Failure Pneumonia (all forms) Gastro Enteritis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	4	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
All Causes: Certified Uncertified	6	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	7	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	12	5

INFANT WELFARE

There has been no change in the number or scope of the Infant Welfare Centres in Pontypridd now administered by the Glamorgan County Council.

The following Clinics hold weekly sessions:

Pontypridd	..	..	..	..	Central Clinic, Park.
Treforest	..	..	..	..	Saron Chapel Vestry.
Rhydyfelin	..	..	..	..	Ebenezer Chapel.
Hopkinstown	..	..	..	..	Old Age Pensioners Welfare. Hall, Foundry Road.

In addition, fortnightly sessions are held at:

Hawthorn	..	..	..	..	Bethel Chapel Hall.
Pontshonnorton	..	..	..	..	Merthyr Road Clinic.

CO-OPERATION WITH VOLUNTARY BODIES

Mr. William Rees, the local Inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, has kindly sent me the following report of the Society's work in the Pontypridd district during 1957.

During the year, he dealt with 69 cases, affecting the welfare of 145 children, summarised as:

Neglect	..	..	..	..	41
Ill-treatment	..	..	..	..	4
Moral Danger	..	..	..	..	2
Aid or advice sought	..	..	..	..	22

Mr. Rees reports that in the majority of these cases he was able to effect an improvement in home conditions, thus making life happier for the children concerned but before being satisfied that the improvement was lasting he made 207 visits of supervision.

During the year it was not found necessary to bring a single parent before the Court, but in one instance the Society was obliged to take a family of three children before the Juvenile Court where they were found to be in need of care and protection and they were admitted to the care of the Local Authority. In another case the Society was able to safeguard a boy against the effects of a very insecure home life and he was accepted into the care of Dr. Barnardo's Homes where he has settled down nicely. On another occasion Mr. Rees was called upon to help a family of three children who had been brought to Pontypridd from another area and more or less "dumped". These children were taken into the care of the Local Authority.

Mr. Rees pointed out that in several of the neglect cases mentioned the children were caused much unnecessary suffering by the parents frequently quarrelling and fighting in the presence of the children. Another aspect of neglect which is causing concern is where children are left alone at night.

Mr. Rees expresses his thanks to the staff of the Public Health Department for the help given him and the staff in turn express their appreciation of Mr. Rees's readiness to help at all times.

CAUSES OF DEATH 1957

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.. ..	4	1	5
Malignant Neoplasm:			
Stomach	11	6	17
Lungs.	10	3	13
Breast	-	4	4
Uterus	-	3	3
Other Sites	23	17	40
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
Diabetes	2	1	3
Vascular Lesions of nervous system.. ..	49	52	101
Coronary disease, angina	57	32	89
Hypertension with heart disease.	4	7	11
Other heart diseases.. .. .	28	43	71
Other circulatory diseases.. .. .	14	8	22
Influenza.. .. .	3	5	8
Pneumonia.. .. .	10	6	16
Bronchitis.	29	5	34
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	14	2	16
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.. ..	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	6	-	6
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	4	3	7
Syphilitic disease	2	1	3
Other defined or ill-defined diseases ..	14	18	32
Motor vehicle accidents	7	1	8
Suicide.. .. .	1	1	2
Other accidents.. .. .	9	1	10
Homicide and operations of war.. .. .	1	-	1
	<u>305</u>	<u>222</u>	<u>527</u>

NOTIFICATION AND DEATH RATES FOR
CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR
1957.

PROVISIONAL FIGURES BASED ON QUARTERLY RETURNS.

	Pontypridd	
	1957 Rate per 1,000	1956 Population
<u>Deaths</u>		
Whooping cough	0.0	0.0
Diphtheria	0.0	0.0
Tuberculosis	0.13	0.16
Influenza	0.2	0.10
Smallpox	0.0	0.0
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0.0	0.0
Pneumonia	0.4	0.42
Cancer	2.0	1.8
<u>Notifications (Corrected)</u>		
Typhoid, and Paratyphoid Fever	0.06	0.11
Meningococcal Infection	0.0	0.0
Scarlet Fever	1.4	3.39
Whooping Cough	0.5	1.01
Diphtheria	0.0	0.0
Erysipelas	0.0	0.17
Food poisoning	0.0	0.0
Measles	1.8	2.39
Pneumonia	0.3	0.19
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0.19	0.0
Dysentery	0.0	0.03
Tuberculosis	0.9	1.17

I N D E X

	<u>Page No.</u>
ABATTOIR	15
ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS ETC.. .. .	20
AMBULANCE FACILITIES	22
BIRTHS.. .. .	5
CAMPING SITES	10
CANCER.. .. .	21
CAUSES OF DEATH.	30
CLEAN FOOD ASSOCIATION.. .. .	19
CLOSET ACCOMMODATION	8
COMMON LODGING HOUSES	12
CONDEMNED FOOD - DISPOSAL OF	19
CONDEMNED MEAT/OFFAL - DISPOSAL OF.. .. .	16
COUNCIL HOUSES.. .. .	13
CREMATORIUM	10
CERTIFICATE OF DISREPAIR	13
DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE	8
FACTORIES.. .. .	10
FOOD BYELAWS	20
FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955.. .. .	18,19
FOOD PREMISES	15
FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955/56	20
GYPSIES (UNAUTHORISED CAMPING).. .. .	11
HOSPITAL PROVISION (INFECTIOUS DISEASES)	25
HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.	13
HOUSING STATISTICS.. .. .	12,13
ICE-CREAM.. .. .	15
INFANTILE MORTALITY.	28
INFANT WELFARE.	29
LABORATORY WORK AND FACILITIES.. .. .	25
MATERNAL MORTALITY.. .. .	21
MEAT AND OTHER FOODS - INSPECTION	16
MILK.. .. .	14
NON-NOTIFIABLE ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES	20,21
NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.. .. .	21,22, 23,24.
N.S.P.C.C.	29
OFFENSIVE TRADES.. .. .	12
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.	22

I N D E X (Contd).

	<u>Page No.</u>
PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951	20
POPULATION.. .. .	5
PROSECUTIONS	10
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	21
POLIO VACCINATION	24
RAINFALL	8
RODENT CONTROL.. .. .	11
REPLACEMENT OF DESTROYED BEDDING.	22
SANITARY INSPECTION.	9
SCAVENGING & REFUSE COLLECTION	11
SHOPS ACT, 1950.. .. .	20
SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933	17
STAFF.. .. .	4
STATISTICS, COMPARATIVE.. .. .	31
STATISTICS, GENERAL AND VITAL	5,6
SWIMMING BATHS AND POOL.. .. .	12
SLUM CLEARANCE.	13
TUBERCULOSIS.. .. .	26,27
TUBERCULOSIS - B.C.G. Vaccination	27
VERMINOUS PREMISES.. .. .	11
WATER SUPPLY.. .. .	7, 8

